

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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O 091026Z AUG 78ZDK CITING HSD 0488W & JCS 7959
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9830
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
13THAF CLARK AB RP

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 13751
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3)
EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: BASE DISCUSSIONS: MARCOS FOCUSSES ON CONGRES-
SIONAL HANDLING OF MAP AND WANTS CONTINUE SIDESTEP
JURISDICTION ISSUE

REF: STATE 187767

1. IN AUGUST 9 MEETING WITH MARCOS, I OPENED WITH PRESENT-
ATION OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS HE HAD RAISED IN OUR INITIAL
JUNE MEETING (MANILA 9620). MADE ALL POINTS PARA 4 REFTEL
ADDING THAT AS FAR AS ZAMBALES TRAINING AREA CONCERNED IT
SEEMED TO ME THAT IN ADDITION TO NEED TO RETAIN THIS AS A
TRAINING AREA ON PHILIPPINE BASE, ZAMBALES TOPOGRAPHY DID
NOT APPEAR IN LEAST SUITABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL USE. CONCLUDED
WITH FURTHER OBSERVATION THAT BOTH GENERAL ESPINO AND
ADMIRAL MC CLENDON HAD TOLD ME THAT MILITARY-TO-MILITARY
TALKS WERE PROGRESSING WELL AND, ON THE BASIS OF THEIR
PROJECTIONS, THE PRESIDENT COULD EXPECT RECEIVE THE RESULTS

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OF THE MILITARY TALKS IN SEPTEMBER.

2. PRESIDENT TOOK A FEW NOTES BUT MADE ABSOLUTELY NO
COMMENT ON TALKING POINTS RE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL
PROJECTS. INSTEAD HE ASKED TO BE BRIEFED ON LATEST BIPLAY
IN CONGRESS CONCERNING MAP FOR PHILIPPINES. SAID I HAD
ANTICIPATED HIS QUESTION AFTER HEARING MISLEADING REPORT

ON THIS MORNING'S MANILA NEWS BROADCAST TO EFFECT THAT US SENATE ACTION HAD JUST NEGATED EARLIER HOUSE ATTEMPT TO CUT \$5 MILLION FROM PHILIPPINE MAP. WE HAD CONTACTED

DEPARTMENT BY TELEPHONE THIS MORNING FOR CLARIFICATION AND I WISHED REVIEW FOR HIM CURRENT STATUS OF ACTIONS IN HOUSE-SENATE AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS PROCESSES. NOTED THAT HOUSE-SENATE AUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE WOULD MEET AUGUST 10; MEANWHILE SENATOR INOUE IS STANDING FIRM THAT HIS COMMITTEE WILL TAKE NO ACTION ON APPROPRIATION UNTIL COMPLETION OF AUTHORIZATION PROCESS IN SENATE. PREDICTED IT, THEREFORE, MOST UNLIKELY WE WILL SEE SENATE ACTION ON APPROPRIATIONS UNTIL AFTER FORTHCOMING RECESS, I.E., SOME-TIME AFTER LABOR DAY. CAUTIONED MARCOS THAT DEBATE ABOUT PARTICULAR ISSUES AFFECTING MAP FOR PHILIPPINES WAS TAKING PLACE AGAINST BACKDROP OF SENTIMENT IN BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE TO TRIM BACK FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE. THIS WAS PERENNIAL PROBLEM FOR ANY ADMINISTRATION, PARTICULARLY IN ELECTION YEAR ATMOSPHERE. NOTED THAT HOUSE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE IS SEEKING OVERALL CUT OF ABOUT 10 PERCENT IN FY 79 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. FINALLY REMINDED MARCOS THE ADMINISTRATION HAD, AS VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE COMMITTED HIMSELF TO DO, TAKEN INSTANT AND EFFECTIVE ACTION WITH SENATE LEADERS TO HOLD THE LINE ON THE \$18.1 MILLION MAP AUTHORIZATION FIGURE BUT HOUSE AND SENATE DIFFERENCES REMAIN TO BE RECONCILED.

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3. PRESIDENT THEN OBSERVED THAT MRS. MARCOS HAD BEEN RUDEL TREATED BY HOUSE MEMBERS WHO CONFRONTED HER WITH CRUDE QUESTIONS SUCH AS "WHY HAVE YOU COME? DO YOU REALLY WANT MORE MONEY? DO YOU WANT OUR BASES TO STAY?" REPLIED I KNEW SHE HAD BEEN TARGETTED FOR ROUGH QUESTIONING BY SEVERAL MEMBERS BUT NOTED EFFORTS OF ZABLOCKI AND OTHERS TO MODERATE BOTH THE TONE AND DIRECTION OF THE QUESTIONING. ALSO RECALLED COMMENT MONDALE HAD MADE TO MRS. MARCOS CONCERNING TREATMENT ALL US LEADERS RECEIVE IN COMMITTEE HEARINGS. PRESIDENT DID NOT FURTHER PURSUE THIS POINT.

4. HE INSTEAD RETURNED TO ISSUE OF GRANT ASSISTANCE. HE RECALLED THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR NEWSOM HAD PREDICTED GRANT AID WOULD BE PHASED OUT WORLDWIDE WITHIN NEXT 3-5 YEARS AND SAID HE, MARCOS, WISHED BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS. REPLIED THAT I DID NOT BELIEVE AMBASSADOR NEWSOM HAD MEANT TO IMPLY THAT CONTINUATION OF SOME TYPE OF GRANT MILITARY AID WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION WHILE THERE IS CONGRESSIONAL DETERMINATION TO ELIMINATE MAP I FELT POSSIBILITY EXISTED THAT COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAD SPECIAL INTERESTS, SUCH AS OUR MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE

PHILIPPINES, MIGHT CONTINUE TO BE TREATED ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS. ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS NOT AN ASSURANCE ON WHICH MARCOS COULD BASE HIS OWN DECISIONS AND NOTED IT WAS FOR

THIS REASON WE HAD EARLIER IN YEAR TALKED OF "FRONT LOADING" OUR MAP IN PROPOSED COMPENSATION PACKAGE FOR PHILIPPINES TO

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----011481 091103Z /12

O 091026Z AUG 78
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MINIMIZE RISK OF LOSING OUT COMPLETELY ON THAT PARTICULAR TYPE OF ASSISTANCE.

5. CRIMINAL JURISDICTION: MARCOS COMMENTED THAT MOST UNFORTUNATELY A REPORT CITING A RIGID US POSITION ON JURISDICTION SENT HIM FROM WASHINGTON BY MRS. MARCOS AND ROMULO VIA THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD BEEN LEAKED BY SOMEONE IN THE MINISTRY TO MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM ASSEMBLY. AS HE HAD CAUTIONED ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, THIS MORE THAN ANY OTHER ISSUE HAS HIGHLY EMOTIONAL IMPLICATIONS FOR FILIPINOS REPORT STATED THAT MRS. MARCOS AND ROMULO HAD BEEN TOLD IN DEPARTMENT DURING LAST WEEK'S MEETINGS THAT, WHILE COMPENSATION COULD BE DISCUSSED, THERE WAS NO GIVE WHATSOEVER IN USG POSITION RE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

6. REPLIED I HAD RECEIVED NO SUCH REPORT FROM WASHINGTON. SAID WE RECOGNIZED SENSITIVITY OF THIS PROBLEM AND ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT WOULD FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE BRIEF COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HOW WE HANDLE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE US FORCES ARE STATIONED. NOTED IN PASSING

GOP EXERCISES WIDER JURISDICTION OVER OUR SERVICEMEN THAN
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ANY OTHER HOST COUNTRY. ADDED(IN REPLY TO HIS INTERJECTION THAT THERE WERE NO RECENT CASES OF OUR ALLOWING US SERVICE-MEN TO LEAVE COUNTRY WHILE FACING CRIMINAL CHARGES. MARCOS REPLIED BEST THING FOR PRESENT WAS TO HAVE NO PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF JURISDICTION ISSUE. (COMMENT: HE DID NOT REACT TO OFFER OF COMPARATIVE STUDY.) PRESIDENT COMPLAINED HE IS FACING INCREASINGLY COMPLICATED DOMESTIC SCENE AND HIS FREEDOM OF MANEUVER IS LIMITED NOT ONLY BY OPERATION OF IBP BUT ALSO BY OTHER FORA SUCH AS REFLECTED IN RECENT OPEN LETTER FROM KABATAANG BARANGAY (KB) DEMANDING IMMEDIATE STEPS TO DISMANTLE THE BASES. HE IS TELLING ALL SUCH PARTIES TO "COOL IT" BUT THERE IS A LIMIT BOTH TO HOW MUCH PRESSURE HE CAN EXERT TO QUIET CRITICS AND HOW OFTEN HE CAN DO SO WITHOUT "CREATING DOUBTS ABOUT MY NATIONALIST CREDENTIALS."

7. MARCOS SAID THAT AMONG IBP QUESTIONS DIRECTED TO GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH HE WILL BE SOON OBLIGED TO DEAL IN IBP QUESTION HOUR IS ONE FROM LABOR LEADER RUBEN DE OCAMPO AND FORMER HUK LEADER TARUC ASKING WHAT GOVERNMENT HAS DONE AND IS DOING IN PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AND RENT FOR BASES. MARCOS SAID HE WOULD FIND WAY TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS BUT MADE CLEAR WE MUST NOT TAKE IT FOR GRANTED HE CAN COPE INDEFINITELY IN WAY WE MIGHT BOTH LIKE HIM TO DO.

8. IN CLOSING, HE ASKED ME TO KEEP HIM FULLY BRIEFED ON CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. I UNDERTOOK TO DO SO BUT CAUTIONED THAT WE UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY DEFINITE ANSWER RE FY 79 MAP UNTIL SOME TIME IN SEPTEMBER. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MECHANICS OF CONFERENCE PROCEDURES AND WOULD BRIEF KEY IBP MEMBERS ON STATUS OF CONGRESSIONAL DELIBERATIONS.

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9. COMMENT. PRESIDENT'S SILENCE ON COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL USE OF BASE LANDS DOES NOT RPT NOT MEAN THIS PROBLEM HAS GONE AWAY. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT TO DATE INSISTED THAT ISSUE BE HANDLED "AS THE PRIORITY MATTER" HE DESCRIBED IT IN EARLY JUNE. I AM UNSURE HOW MUCH OF OUR POSITION HE ABSORBED IN THIS BRIEFING. HIS COMMENTS RE TREATMENT GIVEN MRS. MARCOS AND HIS QUESTIONS RE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON MAP ONCE AGAIN REVEAL A MAN WHO REACTS MOST CLEARLY TO

IMMEDIATE STIMULI. I NONETHELESS WAS STRUCK BY THE LIVELI-
NESS OF HIS INTEREST IN THE MAP PROBLEM. HIS INTEREST IN
SEEING HOW THE ADMINISTRATION FARES ON ITS ALL OUT EFFORT
TO GET \$18.1 MILLION I FEAR WILL INEVITABLY REFLECT ON HOW
HE WILL ESTIMATE OUR PROSPECTS OF DELIVERING A SATISFACTORY
OVERALL COMPENSATION PACKAGE. AS OF NOW I WOULD HAZARD THAT
COMPENSATION PROSPECTS WILL BE UPPERMOST IN HIS MIND AS HE
REVIEWS RESULTS OF THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS.
MURPHY

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